

**WHIMPLE PARISH COUNCIL  
ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT  
IMPROVEMENT ACTION PLAN 2025/26**

The purpose of this report is to provide details as to an explanation as to why a statement on the Annual Governance Statement has been answered as 'no'.

This report also gives details as to how the Council's governance arrangements will be improved in 2026/27

Statement answered as 'no'

*We have put in place arrangements for the effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practices during the year under review.*

Whimple Parish Council has met all but one of the criteria for this statement, with the following in place:

- A council owned website – [clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- All councillors have .gov.uk email addresses
- The website is [www.whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.whimpleparishcouncil.gov.uk)
- Registered as a data processor and data controller with the Information Commissioner's Office
- A Data Protection Policy (last approved in October 2025; minute 112)
- A Data Breach Policy (last approved in October 2025; minute 112)
- Freedom of Information Policy (last approved in October 2025; minute 113)
- Model Publication Scheme (last approved in October 2025; minute 113)
- Privacy notices for General, staff and councillors and Allotment Holders (last approved in October 2025; minute 114)
- Bring Your Own Device Policy (approved in January 2026; minute 171)
- IT Policy (approved in January 2026; minute 172)

The only criteria that the Council does not meet is:

- The Council website does not meet Web Content Accessibility Guideline (WCAG) 2.2 AA (currently meets WCAG 2.1 AA)

The Council asked its website provider to review and update the accessibility statement, and the Council is waiting for the results of the MOT that they are carrying out on the website. However, this has not been completed by the end of the financial year.

Improvement actions for 2026/27

The Council will work with its website provider (whether current provider or new provider) to ensure that the website meets WCAG 2.2AA and Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (where applicable).

To strengthen the governance arrangements further, the Council will also:

- Draft and adopt a Data Retention Policy (June 2026)
- Draft and adopt a Subject Access Request Procedure (June 2026)
- Complete a data audit and present to the Council for approval
- Undertake GDPR / Data Protection Training